

DDKS Brands Its Name in Kuwait

By Specialist Alex Licea, U.S. Army Forces Central Command Public Affairs

Established last summer, the name of Defense Distribution Depot Kuwait, Southwest Asia, commonly referred to as DDKS, is new to some service members. However, that is changing quickly as military across the region receive supplies stamped with the initials “DDKS.”

“DDKS serves as the distribution facility for the United States Central Command area,” said COL Gloria Blake, USA, Commander, DDKS. “Its mission is to provide logistical support to service members in Iraq and Kuwait. We are on the ground providing support for the Warfighter across the CENTCOM region.”

The Defense Distribution Center officially activated DDKS September 15, 2004. It currently operates out of the Public Warehousing Company, a contracted civilian partner located just outside of Camp Arifjan, where it packs and ships hundreds of supplies on a daily basis to military units across the Middle East.

“Current commodities distributed by DDKS are repair parts, barrier and construction materials, clothing, textiles and tentage,” said COL Blake. It is currently one of 26 distribution facilities DDC operates around the world.

“When any request hits the DDKS system, we pick it, pack it and ship out as fast as possible,” she said.

DDKS replaced a distribution site which was operating in Bahrain. DDC officials felt that a distribution site in Kuwait served as a more permanent location for DDC’s mission in the CENTCOM AOR.

“By positioning these items in Kuwait, we will observe more than \$160 million in air transportation cost avoidance and significantly reduce customer wait time,” said BG Mike Lally, USA, DDC Commander, during the DDKS activation ceremony last summer.

Like DDC’s other 25 distribution centers around the world, DDKS employs civilian workers to get the job done. “We currently have a very small workforce,” COL Blake said. “Each of them is a specialist in their field of work.”

DDKS currently stocks about 20,000 items with the potential to add more in the future.

Since September 22, 2004, when the first order was shipped, more than 216,000 items, valued at more than \$124 million, have been shipped by air and sea to units all across the region.

And, although this adds another acronym in the vocabulary of the military community across the Middle East, COL Blake feels it is one each service member should keep in the back of their minds.

“DDKS is here to serve and provide support for the war effort,” said COL Blake.

“Our goal is to ensure our customers’ readiness, so we are committed to providing the right item, at the right time, every time.”

DDC Holds Joint Reserve Planning Sessions

By Jose Abreu, DDC Reserve Affairs & Mobilization

The Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Reserve Affairs & Mobilization Division hosted two, two-day reserve planning sessions in March and April 2005.

The events provided information to the DDC Reserve leadership concerning DDC policy and guidance for contingency and contributory support for fiscal years 2005 and 2006. Attendees were provided comprehensive information on the role of the Reserve Affairs & Mobilization Division to plan, coordinate, and support mission requirements.

“We have to think war because you never know when things are going to happen,” said the DDC Reserve Joint Team Leader, COL (P) David Kee, USA, in reference to the readiness of the DDC reserve units and the events of September 11.

“To fight and win, we must do two things,” said COL (P) Kee, “put well-trained service members on the battlefield and provide

service members anytime, anywhere and on time.”

Additional topics discussed included the DLA/DDC decorations and performance evaluation programs, family assistance program, training opportunities, inventory teams, Annual Training (AT), Inactive Duty Training (IDT), DDC Reserve Vision, and Manpower.

“The reserve planning meetings serve as a great tool for the DDC to set a clear vision for the Reserves,” said Sue Alpaugh, Chief of the DDC Reserve Affairs and Mobilization Division. “The hands-on involvement of the unit commanders, the commitment from the DDC leadership and enthusiasm and hard work from the service members will continue to provide for an elite team of Reservists at the DDC.”

Highlights of the meeting included the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP), Reserve Overview provided by SFC Sterling McGhee, USA, DDSP Reserve Coordinator; the DLA Decorations/Awards Procedures presentation provided by SFC Deneen Diggs, USA, and SSgt Joshan Abdul-Jalaal, USAF, from DDC Military Affairs; and the recent deployment experience shared by LCDR Elizabeth Beaty, SC, USN, and LCDR Jacob Miller, SC, USN, from DDSP.

Other attendees to the events included the DDC Reserve Affairs and Mobilization Division staff; LtCol Charles Musser, USAFR, Air Force IMA; CAPT Tom Welke, USANR, Navy DOT Bessemer; LCDR Ed Moninger, USNR, Navy Unit - Reno; SKC Ron Scheaffer, USNR, DDC A106 Unit; CAPT Scott Sorensen, USNR, Navy DOT San Joaquin; CDR Reid Chambers, USNR, Navy Cedar Rapids; and LCDR Tony Erickson, USNR, Executive Officer, Navy DOT Salt Lake City; CAPT Judy Miller, SC, USN; Maj Glenda Stone, USAF; and SKCM Linda Abbott from DLA Joint Reserve Forces (J-9).

DDC’s Reserve Affairs & Mobilization Division represents the DDC and serves as the single focal point for recruiting civilians, reservists and active duty military to support all DLA/DDC mission requirements, contingencies, emergencies, mobilizations, exercises and domestic disaster relief.